

# Pear Update

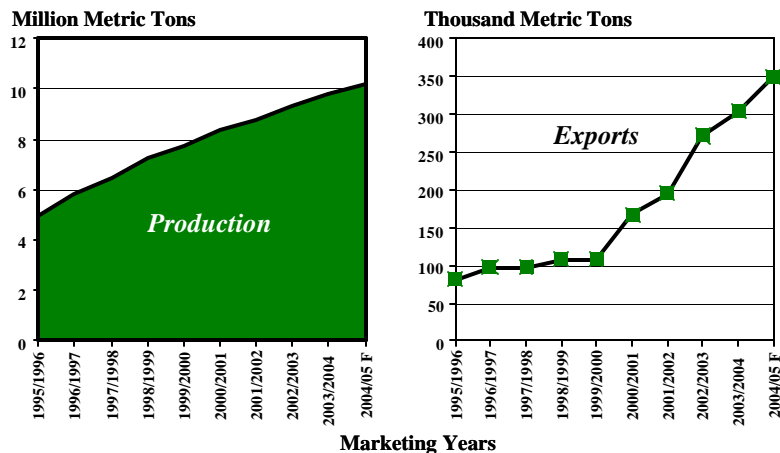
## PRODUCTION

Pear production in the United States during the marketing year 2004/05 is expected to decrease about 2 percent to about 824,000 metric tons. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will release the *Non-citrus Fruits and Nuts Preliminary Summary* on Monday, January 25, 2005, that will give utilized production and price figures and state-by-state breakouts for 2004.

Northern Hemisphere<sup>1</sup> total production is expected to be up 4 percent. Increases in China, Germany, Greece, and Italy are more than offset by production declines in Russia, Spain, and Turkey.

*China's pear industry, the world's largest, continues to be a major force behind increases in expected 2004/05 output.*

### China's Pear Production and Exports Continue to Expand



Source: USDA Agricultural Attache Reports and the U.S. National Agricultural Statistics Service.

China's pear production is expected to exceed 10 million tons for the first time in 2004/05. China produces over half of the world's pears. According to the Agricultural Attaché, China's pear exports remain an important and growing segment of China's fruit trading industry. The suspension of exports to the United States and other countries following the December 2003 detection of *Alternaria* fungus in Ya Pears contributed to the slower growth than previously

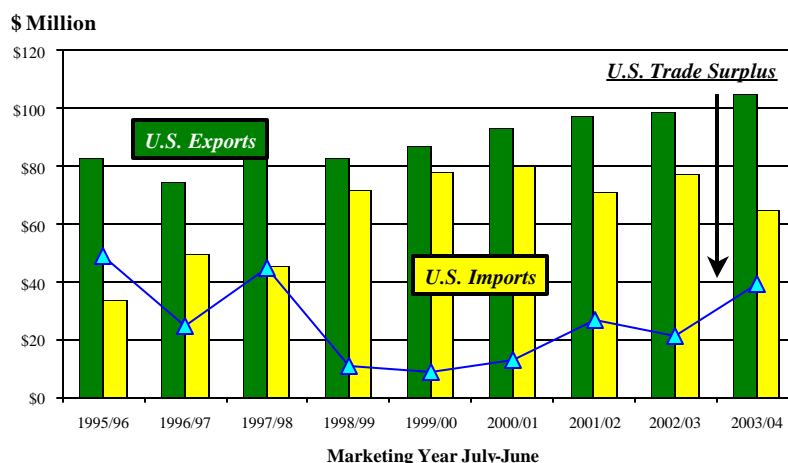
<sup>1</sup> Northern Hemisphere production no longer includes The Netherlands, Belgium, or France as reporting from these countries has been discontinued.

expected. The pear export season is primarily from September through December, but this time range appears to be expanding slightly on both ends. The greatest export growth was to Indonesia; sales increased from \$8 million to \$17 million over the course of the year and should continue growing. For more information, see GAIN Report # CH4033.

## **TRADE**

Exports of pears from the United States were down 4 percent during the 2003/04 season. An increase of 3 percent to Canada was more than offset by a 6-percent decline in shipments to Mexico. Expectations for the 2004/05 season are unchanged at about 165,000 tons. Despite the declining quantity, the value of pears shipped during 2003/04 posted a 6-percent increase reaching over \$100 million while the value of imports declined 16 percent. The trade surplus in pears doubled from \$20 million the previous year to nearly \$40 million in 2003/04.

### **U.S. Trade Balance in Pears**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Early season shipments are composed mainly of the Bartlett variety. Winter pear varieties begin to ship in September. The most frequently exported variety, according to industry, is the Green Anjou variety. In addition, most Bosc pears exported are destined for Mexico while most Bartlett pears exported are destined for Canada. Asian markets prefer the red winter pear.

*(For information on production and trade, contact Heather Velthuis at 202-720-9792. The FAS Attaché Report search engine contains reports on deciduous fruit for more than 20 countries and can be found in the FAS home page at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov>. Also, visit our pear web page at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/http/horticulture/pears/html>)*